



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1994/65
22 February 1994

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH/FRENCH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 14

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE THIRD DECADE
TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

UNESCO report on the implementation of the special project on
the UNESCO contribution to the construction of a non-racial
and apartheid-free society in South Africa

REPORT ON ACTION TO COMBAT RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, PARTICULARLY IN
SOUTH AFRICA, IN UNESCO'S SPHERES OF COMPETENCE (1992-1993) IN ACCORDANCE
WITH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1588 (L) AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 2785 (XXVI)

Implementation of the special project on the UNESCO contribution to the
construction of a non-racial and apartheid-free society in South Africa

1. UNESCO was one of the first United Nations agencies to provide specific assistance for action to combat apartheid, particularly in the fields of education and the social sciences. Since Nelson Mandela's release in February 1990 and the official abolition of the apartheid laws in 1992, the South African Government and democratic movements in South Africa have been holding negotiations to define and establish institutional frameworks for the construction of a democratic and united non-racial society.
2. This is the context of the action which UNESCO has been taking, in accordance with its programme and budget for 1992-1993 and in the framework of Major Programme Area VII: UNESCO's Contribution to Peace, Human Rights and the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination and, in particular, Programme VII.2: Human Rights and Contribution to the Elimination of Apartheid and All Other Forms of Discrimination, to implement an original

programme entitled "Special project: Contribution to the elimination of apartheid: towards an apartheid-free world", which was adopted by the General Conference at its twenty-sixth session in 1992. Its objective is the construction of a democratic, egalitarian and non-racial society.

1. Project implementing agency

3. In view of developments in the situation in South Africa and the country's importance not only in southern Africa, but throughout Africa and the world, the Director General of UNESCO appointed an official at the Organization's headquarters in Paris as director of the special project to coordinate the activities of various sectors of UNESCO on behalf of South Africa. By agreement with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director General also decided that, in the context of the local representation of the United Nations, an official would subsequently be transferred to carry out UNESCO's activities.

2. Implementation of the special project in 1992

(a) Publications

4. In 1992, UNESCO published a booklet based on the results of the Workshop on Human Rights Questions in an Apartheid-Free South Africa, which was held in Banjul, Gambia, from 18 to 21 June 1991 and organized in cooperation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

5. A special February 1992 issue of the UNESCO Courier focused on apartheid. It is entitled: "Apartheid: The Beginning of the End". It should be noted that the UNESCO Courier is a monthly magazine published in 36 languages and that it has made an undeniable contribution to information on human rights and action to combat racism, racial discrimination and the apartheid regime.

(b) Meetings

6. UNESCO is contributing to efforts by the United Nations to identify priority areas for international assistance to South Africa during the transition period to a non-racial democracy and thereafter. The Organization participated in the United Nations Seminar on South Africa's Socio-Economic Problems: Future Role of the United Nations System in Helping to Address Them, organized by the United Nations Special Committee and the United Nations Centre against Apartheid from 22 to 24 May 1992. The background document presented to this Seminar, "UNESCO's Activities and Prospects for Future Assistance Aimed at the Building of an Apartheid-Free Society, with Focus on Education, Training and Poverty Alleviation", mentions various areas where UNESCO is prepared, if requested and in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, to provide support, including for a national educational policy review, assistance in providing human rights training to professional groups having special responsibility or need for knowledge of human rights standards and practices, assistance to black universities for teaching and research, assistance for mass media training, cooperation in analysis of youth problems and policy formulation, policy advice and training concerning gender issues.

7. The International Workshop on Cultural and Educational Policies in an Apartheid-Free South Africa was organized in Côte d'Ivoire from 16 to 19 June 1992 with the cooperation of the Côte d'Ivoire Committee for UNESCO. The purpose of the Workshop, which was attended by some 30 participants and observers, mostly agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, was to study various strategies that might be used for the formulation of cultural and information programmes for an apartheid-free society.
8. An important Round Table on Independent and Pluralistic Media in South Africa, in which UNESCO participated actively, was organized in Windhoek, Namibia, from 14 to 17 August 1992 as a contribution to reflection and planning on how to restructure communication policy and media institutions during the transition period and thereafter, in order to permit plurality and freedom of expression and the growth of democracy. Participants from South Africa came from the Campaign for Open Media, the South African Union of Journalists, the Media Workers Association of South Africa and the Conference of Independent Newspaper Editors; other participants were from Angola, Botswana, Malawi and Mozambique. The Seminar examined the structure of the South African media and the growth of an alternative press, called for the abrogation of still remaining discriminatory legislation limiting freedom of expression, examined various policy options and strategies for promoting press as well as radio and television broadcasting which could reach out to the needs of all groups in rural and urban areas and allow the representation and expression of all interests. The Seminar examined concrete training needs and some possibilities for media training for the majority population in South Africa. The Seminar, which received some support from the Swedish International Development Authority and the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung, was preceded by a meeting on the establishment of a secretariat for the Media Institute of Southern Africa, which has just been established.
9. UNESCO participated in a conference on educational assistance to disadvantaged South Africans, organized by the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (September 1992, New York). It was a follow-up to the 1991 Conference held in Paris and co-sponsored by UNESCO. The Conference, which was attended by more than 90 participants, including South African experts on education, identified mechanisms for the coordination of bilateral and multilateral educational assistance programmes and studies, among other issues, of linkages between education, training and employment. While there was widespread agreement that the crisis in education in South Africa should be tackled by the South Africans themselves, the participants concluded that the United Nations agencies could, as an interim measure, provide technical assistance in agreed areas of priority, such as capacity-building in black universities and tertiary student financial assistance.
10. UNESCO took part in the symposium organized by the Bordeaux Institute of Political Studies and the Human Sciences Centre on the topic: "Ethnicity and power in South Africa" (12-13 November 1992). It contributed mainly to the workshop on "South Africa and ethnic groups".

11. UNESCO also played an active role in the consultations between the Special Committee against Apartheid and non-governmental organizations and between the United Nations Centre against Apartheid and the other organizations of the United Nations system. These consultations were held in Geneva from 29 November to 2 December 1992.

12. UNESCO took part in the meeting for consultations between non-governmental anti-apartheid organizations and the organizations of the United Nations system held in Geneva from 13 November to 2 December 1992.

(c) Data banks

13. UNESCO has set up a data bank and an information follow-up network on the situation in South Africa and southern Africa whose main objective is to give political decision-makers and other persons and organizations interested in the situation in the sub-region access, in UNESCO's fields of competence, to better information to help them prepare for the post-apartheid era.

3. Implementation of the special project in 1993

(a) Publications

14. As a contribution to reflection on the needs of a post-apartheid society, the International Meeting on the Role of Religions and Religious Institutions in Dismantling Apartheid was organized by UNESCO in cooperation with the World Council of Churches in Geneva from 23 to 25 November 1991. The results of this conference were published in 1993.

15. The book entitled "Higher than hope, a biography of Nelson Mandela" was published in 1993 by Editions Présence africaine with financial assistance from UNESCO.

16. A study to identify and analyse the state of information on the scope of pertinent research and types of methodology used to explain ethnicity and identify consciousness and their influence on the building of a new democratic society was carried out in 1993, with the financial assistance of UNESCO, by the Center for Social and Development Studies of the University of Natal, Durban, South Africa.

(b) Meetings

17. The UNESCO Workshop to Plan, Design and Implement a Literacy Training Programme for Peri-Urban South African Youth was held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 15 to 26 March 1993. Many experts, teachers and representatives of religious communities and non-governmental organizations, who were all South Africans, took part, as did representatives of the African Association for Literacy and Adult Education (AALAE) and the University of Botswana School of Continuing Education. Students from the University of Botswana also took part on some days. The participants were unanimously in favour of the training workshop, whose purpose was to enable them to design, plan and implement an informal adult education training programme as part of action to combat violence in urban areas.

18. UNESCO participated actively in the Conference on Ethnicity, Identity and Nationalism in South Africa: Comparative Perspective (Grahamstown, 20-24 April 1993). Several hundred participants from universities, non-governmental organizations, foundations and diplomatic missions accredited in South Africa were present. Over 60 communications were submitted at 6 plenaries and in 15 committees. The chairmanship of the Committee on Nationalism and Local Identity was entrusted to the representative of UNESCO. His contribution consisted mainly in describing UNESCO's activities for the building of a South African nation based on the realities of multi-ethnic societies. The participants made an appeal to organizations such as UNESCO, the United Nations, the OAU, the Commonwealth and the EEC for the protection of minorities, the promotion of languages and the free practice of beliefs to enable every South African to find and live according to his own identity.

19. At the invitation of the African National Congress (ANC), UNESCO took part in the Culture and Development Conference (CDC), which was held in Johannesburg from 15 April to 2 May 1993. The participants, who included intellectuals, artists, arts and entertainment administrators, representatives of all political tendencies, including the national liberation movements recognized by the OAU, and Government representatives, stressed the need for a ministry of culture and the establishment of an autonomous national commission which would be headed by a board composed of persons known for their interest in culture and which would guarantee the funding of activities and share responsibility for the country's cultural policy.

(c) Missions in South Africa

20. The following three missions took place: during the first one, meetings were held with the most representative non-governmental organizations, religious institutions and ANC to identify the persons who would be responsible for carrying out civic activities in connection with the election preparations and voter education. During the second, meetings were held with the Rector of Fort Hare University and the Director of the Cultural Study Centre to discuss a project for a national museum on the resistance which was evaluated at over \$1 million and was to be financed by UNDP. The third mission was designed to gather information and statistics on the preparation of a language policy project in accordance with the Kempton Park agreements, which recognize three official languages in South Africa, and on the editing and publication of the records of the Culture and Development Conference (see para. 19 above).

(d) Assistance to the national liberation movements
recognized by the OAU

21. It may be noted that, in 1992-1993, UNESCO continued to provide educational assistance to the national liberation movements recognized by the OAU, in cooperation with UNDP, the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa. Under projects implemented in cooperation with ANC and the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC), such assistance was designed to educate over 350 students in post-secondary and vocational training educational establishments and over 550 students in primary and secondary schools.

4. Special Programme for South Africa: 1994-1995 biennium

22. In the educational field, UNESCO intends to send a team of experts in education, finance, planning and economics, who will give valuable advice to the negotiators in the National Educational and Technical Forum during the transition period. The BRX/SAF special programme is already working in cooperation with the education sector on the formulation of an ad hoc training programme for these experts and consultations will also be held with IIEP for this purpose. The BRX/SAF director carried out a mission to London to meet the representatives of the United Nations system in connection with the preparations for the donors' conference in South Africa which will be held from 22 to 30 June, especially in the area of education, where UNESCO has been named the lead agency.

23. In the area of culture, UNESCO sent a delegation to the Culture and Development Conference (CDC) organized by ANC and is closely involved in the follow-up to the Conference. Via ED/HE, it has established two chairs at Durban-Westville University: one in engineering (this is the only black university in South Africa that has an engineering faculty) and the other in peace culture. To our knowledge, this is the first UNESCO peace culture chair in the world and it is all the more remarkable in that South Africa is not yet a member State of UNESCO. A contract has been signed with the Mayibuye Cultural Centre in Cape Town for the publication (in South Africa) and the dissemination of the final report of the proceedings of the National Conference on the Development of Culture, which was held in Johannesburg in May 1993, sponsored by ANC and attended by UNESCO. Under BRX/SAF, a preliminary report on the historic "Museum of People" at Fort Hare University is being prepared by the CLT programme expert following a mission in November 1993 carried out on the initiative of and funded by BRX/SAF on the basis of requests by this black university and ANC authorities. A \$1,138,000 budget has been submitted to UNDP for the implementation of this integrated museum project, which will go a long way to reviving the cultural memory of the black population of South Africa and its anti-apartheid struggle. The special programme also sent a preparatory mission to South Africa to collect statistical data for the formulation of a language policy project.

- - - - -